IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-39 (canceled)

40. (currently amended) A method of ~~assaying for~~ assay in which peptide-specific effector T cells are enumerated, which method comprises:

(a) providing a fluid containing fresh T cells, which have not been cultured *in vitro*, in contact with a surface carrying an immobilized antibody to interferon-γ,

(b) presenting to the T cells a T cell-activating peptide,

(c) incubating the fluid to cause release of said interferon-γ, and

(d) detecting released interferon-γ bound to said immobilized antibody to enumerate said peptide-specific effector T cells;

wherein incubation is continued for a time to permit interferon-γ release by only those T cells that have been pre-sensitized *in vivo* to the T cell-activating peptide and are capable of immediate effector function without the need to effect division/differentiation by *in vitro* culture in the presence of the T cell-activating peptide; and

said method being [[is]] applied to diagnosis or monitoring of infection with an intracellular pathogen.

41. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 40, wherein the intracellular pathogen is selected from the group consisting of hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, *M. tuberculosis*, *P. falciparum*, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and influenza virus.

42. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 40, wherein a peptide derived from ESAT-6 of *M. tuberculosis* is presented to the T cells.

43. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 40, wherein the T cells are peripheral blood mononuclear cells.

44. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 40, wherein a peptide of 7-12 amino acid residues in length is added to the T-cell containing fluid, which is recognized by CD8+ T cells.

45. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 40, wherein the resulting fluid mixture is incubated under non-sterile conditions.

46. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 40, wherein the peptide is a known epitope.

47. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 40, wherein incubation is continued for a time of 4 to 24 hours.

48. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 40, wherein the T cells are taken from a patient known to be suffering, or to have suffered from, infection with an intracellular pathogen.

49. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 40 performed to monitor progress of HIV infection.

50. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 40 performed to monitor the effect of a vaccine.